
HOUSE BILL 1880

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Anderson, Ormsby, Buri, Curtis, Haigh, Priest, Armstrong, Jarrett, Roberts, Kenney, Conway, Morrell and Wood

Read first time 01/31/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the skills-based economic growth
2 program; amending RCW 28C.18.010; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the education and
6 skills of Washington's workforce is a major determinant of the state's
7 economic growth, and that finding regional solutions to the state's
8 workforce needs are of paramount concern. The legislature further
9 recognizes that different areas of the state will need the flexibility
10 to fashion local solutions to their economic and workforce strengths
11 and challenges, and that regional workforce systems may evolve over
12 time.

13 The legislature finds that while the workforce system in Washington
14 is operated by numerous entities, each with a critical role, it should
15 function as one interconnected and coordinated system. Workforce
16 development planning, at the regional level, should be coordinated with
17 regional strategic plans. Further, regional and state plans should be
18 coordinated to achieve both statewide and local workforce development
19 goals. To facilitate this coordination and cooperation among state and

1 local regions, the legislature declares it to be in the state's
2 interest to establish a coordinated planning program for regional
3 workforce development systems throughout the state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature authorizes a pilot program under which three
7 local workforce development councils shall serve as the lead regional
8 workforce development planning organizations within their regions. In
9 this capacity, each local council selected for the pilot program shall:

10 (a) Convene the following entities that are located or provide
11 services within its region:

- 12 (i) Community and technical colleges;
- 13 (ii) Economic development councils;
- 14 (iii) The employment security department;
- 15 (iv) Small business development centers;
- 16 (v) Skill centers;
- 17 (vi) Public four-year institutions of higher education;
- 18 (vii) Private two and four-year postsecondary institutions;
- 19 (viii) Secondary career and technical education programs; and
- 20 (ix) Other public, private, and nonprofit workforce-related
21 entities;

22 (b) Adopt and periodically update a consensus skills-based economic
23 growth plan for the region. This plan shall clearly articulate the
24 connection between the industry sectors the community is targeting for
25 growth and the skills training programs that the community is targeting
26 for expansion. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:

- 27 (i) Data on current and projected employment opportunities in the
28 local area;
- 29 (ii) Identification of workforce investment needs of existing
30 businesses and businesses considering location in the region;
- 31 (iii) Identification of educational, training, employment, and
32 support service needs of jobseekers and workers in the local area;
- 33 (iv) Analysis of the industry demand, potential labor force supply,
34 and educational, employment, and workforce support available to
35 businesses and jobseekers in the region;
- 36 (v) Development of industry cluster-based strategies to support the

1 regional economy, facilitate technology transfer and diffusion, and
2 increase value-added production;

3 (vi) Identification of the needs of those clusters, including
4 determining what sources of programs and initiatives are needed to
5 attract, grow, retain, and support those industries;

6 (vii) Recommendations for the most efficient use of existing
7 workforce infrastructure and funding to maximize service to individuals
8 and industry; and

9 (viii) Creation of a financial plan demonstrating how the regional
10 workforce plan can be implemented, including all resources that are
11 reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan, and
12 recommending any techniques to leverage and increase available
13 resources and services to individual and industry customers.

14 (2) This section does not relieve workforce development councils of
15 any planning requirements that exist under federal law, that are not
16 included in this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) The board shall select three workforce development councils to
20 develop skills-based economic growth plans as described in this
21 section. At least one of the workforce development council pilot
22 programs chosen shall be located in eastern Washington.

23 (2) Workforce development councils may submit an application to
24 become a pilot program under this section. The board shall review the
25 applications and select the pilot program councils using objective
26 criteria.

27 (3) A workforce development council selected to participate in the
28 pilot program under this section shall convene other local workforce
29 development agencies and develop a skills-based economic growth plan
30 for their region that is supported by the local workforce development
31 agencies. The plan must be adopted within their region by November 30,
32 2008, and approved by the board by February 15, 2009.

33 (4) A workforce development council selected as a pilot program
34 under this section shall establish procedures to track and annually
35 report: The amount of new state and nonstate funding brought into the
36 community as a result of the skills-based economic growth planning

1 process; training capacity expansion achieved in programs targeted by
2 the plan; impact on local economic growth; and the impact on career
3 opportunities for local residents.

4 (5) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose,
5 workforce development councils participating in the pilot skills-based
6 economic growth program shall receive funds in an amount sufficient to
7 cover the cost of one full-time equivalent planner position including
8 benefits.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
12 board shall create the local skills-based economic growth planning
13 program. The board shall determine the criteria for the distribution
14 of funds for the pilot program.

15 (2) The board may, in implementing this section, accept, use, and
16 dispose of contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys
17 received by the board for the purposes of this section must be
18 deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the
19 board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize
20 expenditures from this account. In order to maintain an effective
21 expenditure and revenue control, the account is subject in all respects
22 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
23 expenditure of moneys in the account.

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 1996 c 99 s 2 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
27 this section apply throughout this title.

28 (1) "Board" means the workforce training and education coordinating
29 board.

30 (2) "Director" means the director of the workforce training and
31 education coordinating board.

32 (3) "Training system" means programs and courses of secondary
33 vocational education, technical college programs and courses, community
34 college vocational programs and courses, private career school and
35 college programs and courses, employer-sponsored training, adult basic
36 education programs and courses, programs and courses funded by the job

1 training partnership act, programs and courses funded by the federal
2 vocational act, programs and courses funded under the federal adult
3 education act, publicly funded programs and courses for adult literacy
4 education, and apprenticeships, and programs and courses offered by
5 private and public nonprofit organizations that are representative of
6 communities or significant segments of communities and provide job
7 training or adult literacy services.

8 (4) "Workforce skills" means skills developed through applied
9 learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic
10 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
11 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
12 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

13 (5) "Vocational education" means organized educational programs
14 offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the
15 preparation or retraining of individuals in paid or unpaid employment
16 in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate
17 or advanced degree. Such programs shall include competency-based
18 applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic
19 knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills, work
20 attitudes, general employability skills, and the occupational-specific
21 skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
22 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
23 technology education.

24 (6) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
25 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
26 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function
27 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
28 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
29 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
30 the general education development exam.

31 (7) "Workforce development council" means workforce investment
32 board as established in Public Law 105-220 Sec. 117.

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